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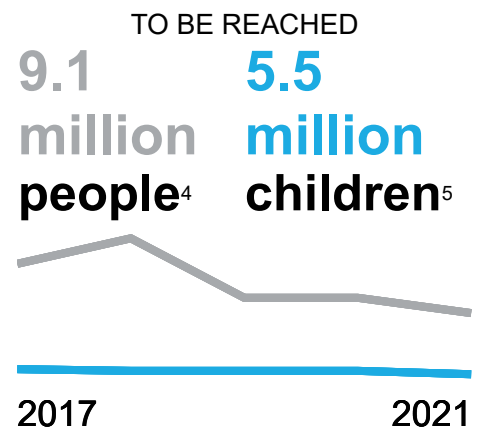
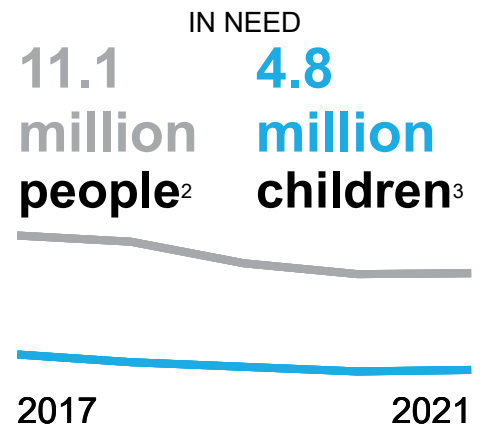
## Humanitarian Action for Children

In Al-Hol camp, a child leans on a box of summer clothes during a seasonal clothing distribution supported by UNICEF.

# Syrian Arab Republic

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs in the Syrian Arab Republic remain extensive. Over 11 million people (4.8 million children) require assistance and 6.1 million people are internally displaced (2.5 million children).<sup>1</sup> Continued hostilities have caused multiple displacements, and the socio-economic impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are hitting families and children extremely hard.
- In 2021, UNICEF will deliver life-saving services to children and families and apply a targeted, multi-sector systems strengthening approach through its partners and field offices. UNICEF will address the specific needs of girls, boys, adolescents, women and men using a conflict-sensitive approach, emphasizing accountability to affected populations and focusing on the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.
- UNICEF requires US\$330.8 million to reach children in the Syrian Arab Republic with humanitarian assistance in 2021. This includes significant funding requirements for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child and social protection.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**1.5 million**

primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



**3.2 million**

children vaccinated against polio



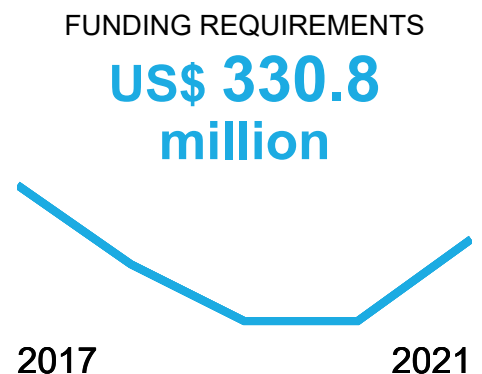
**4.1 million**

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



**2.4 million**

children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education/survivor interventions



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Following a decade of conflict and humanitarian crisis, localized hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to intensify. The situation is further aggravated by the economic downturn, the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impacts, and the rising cost of basic food items.<sup>6</sup> The scale, severity and complexity of humanitarian needs remain extensive.

Over 11 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including 4.8 million children and 3 million people with disabilities, require humanitarian assistance; and 6.1 million people are internally displaced.<sup>7</sup> People spontaneously returning home urgently require critical assistance and the restoration of basic services in destroyed communities.

Grave violations of children's rights continue unabated. Children are killed and injured by the persistent use of explosive weapons in civilian areas, the destruction of health and educational facilities and recruitment into the fighting.<sup>8</sup> Nearly 2,600 communities are affected by explosive contamination, with 11.5 million people (3.1 million children) at risk.<sup>9</sup> Women and girls are disproportionately affected by harmful coping mechanisms, including early marriage and gender-based violence.

Years of conflict have dramatically reduced access to basic services in the Syrian Arab Republic: 2.5 million children aged 5 to 17 years are out of school and an additional 1.6 million children are at risk of dropping out or not learning.<sup>10</sup> Some 10.7 million people require access to WASH services, including 3 million people who are experiencing acute needs.<sup>11</sup> COVID-19 containment measures are further eroding access to services, including routine immunization, education, protection, case management and mental health and psychosocial support.

In addition, half a million children are chronically malnourished and 137,000 children under 5 years are suffering from acute malnutrition, heightening their risk of contracting a preventable illness and even death.<sup>12</sup>

Since December 2019, some 940,000 people in the northwest (194,000 women and 566,000 children) have been displaced, in addition to the 2.7 million people who are already displaced. Of the 4 million people living in northwest Syrian Arab Republic, 2.8 million are in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>13</sup>

The northeast is a highly complex operating environment. Al-Hol camp currently hosts over 65,000 people (94 per cent children and women; 53 per cent children under 12) who are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance.<sup>14</sup> In addition, over 2,200 people in Al-Roj camp need humanitarian assistance.<sup>15</sup> In the south, Rukban camp has not been reached by a humanitarian convoy since September 2019, and informal commercial routes are closed.

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Health and nutrition

**8.1 million** children/women need health/nutrition assistance<sup>18</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**10.7 million** people require access to WASH services<sup>19</sup>



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

**5.7 million** children need child protection assistance<sup>16,17</sup>



### Education

**7 million** children and teachers need education services<sup>20</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



In 2018, Mahasen and her five children were caught in a spiral of escalating violence in Hamoriya, rural Damascus.

“In the blink of an eye our lives turned to hell. Two of my children were trapped in a collapsed basement. I found them screaming under the rubble.”

After this incident, Omar, then 5, often became agitated and sometimes Mahasen found him hitting his head against the wall. Omar and his siblings are now participating in activities, provided through UNICEF-supported case management and psychosocial support interventions, that allow them to express their feelings and help them cope with the trauma.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Omar and his sister, Marwa, draw on the walls of the living room at their home in Nashabiya, East Ghouta. Both have survived intense shelling that left them in need of psychosocial support.



# HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF will prioritize its assistance in high severity areas using the Whole of Syria approach through its hubs in Damascus, Gaziantep and Amman.<sup>21</sup>

UNICEF will strengthen life-saving and preventative nutrition services, including treatment for acute malnutrition and safe and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices. A priority will be supporting continuous access to equitable health and nutrition services for the most vulnerable. This includes reaching children under 5 years through the Expanded Programme on Immunization and supplementary immunization activities in hard-to-reach areas. UNICEF will also support infection prevention and control interventions in health care facilities, schools, learning spaces and service centres and ensure safe access. The use of personal protective equipment will be promoted extensively given the COVID-19 context.

To foster strong linkages between humanitarian action and development programming, UNICEF will deliver life-saving and sustainable interventions, including emergency water, support for sanitation and solid-waste facilities, hygiene promotion, hygiene kit distribution, and the restoration and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. The COVID-19 response will include the light rehabilitation of WASH services in quarantine and isolation centres and support for increasing per capita water supply and access to soap.

UNICEF will support equitable and continued access to quality education, alternative learning, self learning and early learning through the implementation of safe-school protocols and remote-learning methods, in line with the No Lost Generation initiative. This will include the light rehabilitation of over 13,000 schools to decrease crowding.<sup>22</sup>

In child protection, UNICEF will support equitable and continued access to psychosocial support, parenting programmes, case management for vulnerable children (including those with disabilities), and specialized services for survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse. To address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, UNICEF will expand social protection for the poorest families through cash transfers, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.<sup>23</sup> This will facilitate continued learning, support children with disabilities and supplement hygiene kits and clothing.

Gender-based violence risk mitigation will be strengthened across all sectors, and prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse will be scaled up. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen its leadership role on risk communication and community engagement and support mine risk education.

UNICEF will integrate gender and disability considerations across its programmes. Communications will promote positive practices and behaviours. The focus on adolescents and young people will be expanded through positive engagements and cross-sectorial services, life-skills programmes, vocational education and entrepreneurship training.

In 2020, the United Nations Security Council reduced the number of border crossings authorized for cross-border humanitarian assistance, leaving only the Bab al-Hawa gate between the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. In response to the new United Nations Security Council Resolution, the United Nations has been working to expand the capacity of Bab al-Hawa and UNICEF will continue to deliver life-saving programmes and supplies, while expanding cross-line activities within the Syrian Arab Republic, including to Al-Hol camp.

# 2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



## Nutrition

- **13,500** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **1,450,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling<sup>24</sup>
- **960,000** children and pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrients



## Health

- **3,200,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio<sup>25</sup>
- **1,800,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities<sup>26</sup>
- **1,000** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **4,140,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene<sup>27</sup>
- **550,000** people reached with handwashing behaviour change programmes
- **1,360,000** people have improved access to sanitation services<sup>28</sup>



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **415,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support<sup>29</sup>
- **120,500** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **2,380,000** children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions<sup>30</sup>



## Education

- **1,750,000** children supported with educational services and supplies in formal settings<sup>31</sup>
- **400,000** children in non-formal education benefiting from education services<sup>32</sup>
- **44,000** teachers and education personnel trained



## Social protection and cash transfers

- **86,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors<sup>33</sup>
- **490,000** girls and boys protected from extreme weather through the provision of non-food items<sup>34</sup>



## C4D, community engagement and AAP<sup>35</sup>

- **1,002,500** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

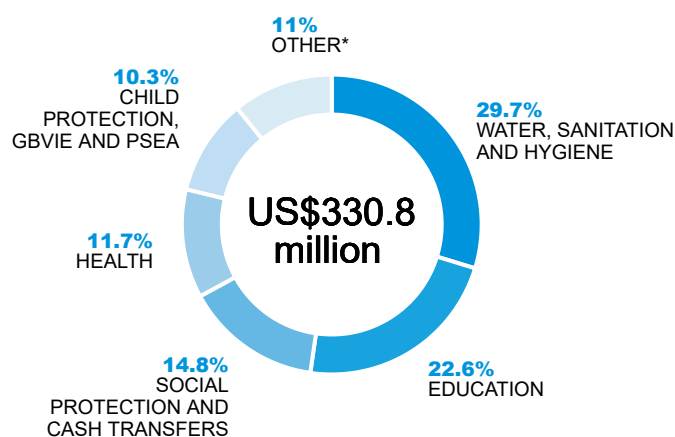


## Adolescents/youth

- **200,000** adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years promoting social cohesion and civic engagement at the community level
- **300,000** affected adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years receiving life-skills and citizenship education and employability skills

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$330.8 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children and families in the Syrian Arab Republic and fulfill children's rights in 2021. This funding will cover programmes delivered from within the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as cross-border assistance delivered as part of the Whole of Syria approach. A large share of the funding request will cover the WASH, education and social protection response. UNICEF programmes are planned for nationwide reach, targeting populations in areas with acute needs, and the population groups most in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance. UNICEF plans to continue its substantive support to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through its leadership on risk communication and community engagement; through the provision of infection prevention control, personal protective equipment and hygiene kits; and its support for humanitarian coordination through the cluster approach.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	23,920,391
Health	38,819,972
Water, sanitation and hygiene	98,314,219 <sup>38</sup>
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	34,221,760 <sup>36</sup>
Education	74,666,582 <sup>39</sup>
Social protection and cash transfers	48,850,736 <sup>40</sup>
C4D, community engagement and AAP	1,119,960
Adolescents/youth	10,912,957 <sup>37</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>330,826,577</b>

\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Nutrition (7.2%), Adolescents/youth (3.3%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (<1%).

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## ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2020.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. The children in need figure is less than the children to be reached figure because the number of children in need is calculated as 42.3 per cent of the total number of people in need while the number of children to be reached is calculated based on polio immunization targeting all children under 5 years in the country, not only children in need of humanitarian assistance.
4. This figure was calculated considering the various interventions planned for different age groups and locations to avoid double counting beneficiaries. This includes 3.2 million children under 5 years to be reached with polio immunization; 2.2 million children older than 5 years to be reached with formal and non-formal education and home-based learning; 300,000 adolescents to be reached with employability skills; and 3.4 million adults to be reached with WASH services. The total figure includes 4.5 million women/girls and 2.5 million people with disabilities, based on 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft). UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. This includes 3.2 million children to be reached with polio immunization; 2.15 million children to be reached with formal and non-formal education; and 160,000 children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years to be reached with employability skills. The total figure includes 2.7 million girls and 650,000 children with disabilities, based on 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
6. World Food Programme, 'WFP Syria Situation Report #8', WFP, August 2020.
7. Ibid. The sectoral needs and situation are inclusive of northwest and northeast Syrian Arab Republic.
8. Between January and June 2020, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism verified 1,092 grave violations against children, including 673 children killed or maimed, and 60 other issues of concern.
9. 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft). An estimated one in three people at risk is a child.
10. 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
11. Ibid. The severity of needs takes into account a number of factors such as ongoing hostilities, mass displacement, population density, protracted displacement, self-organized returns of displaced people, access to essential basic services and the ability of affected communities to afford basic commodities.
12. 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
13. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Consolidated Planning and Requirements for COVID-19 Across Syria' (draft), 6 May 2020.
14. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Syrian Arab Republic: North East Syria: Al Hol camp', OCHA, 26 July 2020.
15. UNICEF, 20 September 2020.
16. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
17. 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft). Children account for 42.3 per cent of the total protection sector needs.
18. 'Syria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid. This includes 6.8 million school-aged children and 200,000 teachers and education personnel (50.14 per cent men and 49.86 per cent women).
21. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
22. This is for the academic year 2020/21.
23. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
24. The target includes both counselling and awareness-raising sessions.
25. The target includes children reached through campaigns.
26. The remaining needs will be covered by health sector partners (United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations).
27. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of water systems. Chlorination and water disinfection activities are not reported under this indicator.
28. This indicator includes the repair/rehabilitation of sewage systems.
29. The sector target is 880,000 children and caregivers. The remaining needs will be covered by other sector partners.
30. The sector target is 4.6 million people. The remaining needs will be covered by other sector partners.
31. The move from single supply items to more intensive and costly integrated services (such as the comprehensive school approach including both services and supplies) means fewer children can be reached but with higher quality education. In addition, education funding is very earmarked, and the delivery of services to children through the formal school system is not permitted by donors, while service delivery through non-governmental organizations is much more expensive and can reach fewer children.
32. All educational services and supplies are related to non-formal education.
33. This is under the early recovery and livelihood sector.
34. This is under the shelter and non-food items sector.
35. Communication for development, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
36. UNICEF has received more data, enabling it to set a more accurate target and funding requirement.
37. This includes both education and early recovery components of the adolescent development and participation programme.
38. The higher budget is largely due to the devaluation of the Syrian currency, which is increasing the costs of UNICEF projects (as the United Nations exchange rate is lower than the market rate).
39. The move from single supply items to more intensive and more costly integrated services such as the comprehensive school approach means fewer children can be reached but with higher quality education.
40. This includes both the non-food items and early recovery livelihood components of the social protection programme.